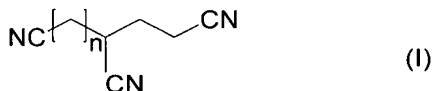


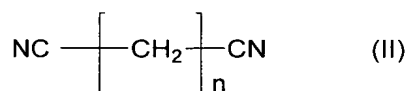
**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a tricarbonitrile corresponding to formula I



wherein n is an integer from 2 to 11,  
which comprises forming [[an]] a 2-amino-1-cycloalkene-1-carbonitrile intermediate in a first stage in the presence of a strong base from an aliphatic  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile corresponding to formula II,



wherein n is an integer from 3 to 12 and the intermediate has from 4 to 13 carbon atoms in the cycloalkene ring,  
and reacting the intermediate in a second stage to form a trinitrile corresponding to formula I by the addition of acrylonitrile.

Claim 2. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein said aliphatic  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile comprises adiponitrile.

Claim 3. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the synthesis is carried out as a one pot reaction.

Claim 4. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the strong base is added in an amount of 0.5 to 2 equivalents, based on the  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile.

Claim 5. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the strong base is added in an amount of 1 to 1.5 equivalents, based on the  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile.

Claim 6. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the first reaction stage is carried out at a temperature of 70 to 120 °C.

Claim 7. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the second reaction stage is carried out at a temperature of 0 to 120 °C.